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450100-03566**IN THE CLAIMS**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. An identifier indicating the status of each claim is provided.

Listing of Claims

1. – 3. (Canceled)

4. (Currently Amended)

An information processing apparatus according to

Claim 2, comprising:

reading means for reading data and improvement information used for improving the quality of the data from a recording medium which stores the data and the improvement information;

improvement-information requesting means for requesting another improvement information used for improving the quality of the data read by the reading means; and quality improving means for improving the quality of the data according to at least both the improvement information and the another improvement information obtained according to a request made by the improvement-information requesting means and for outputting high-quality data.

wherein the data is degraded data obtained by degrading the original data,
wherein the quality improving means can restore the original data from the degraded data according to at least both the improvement information and the another improvement information,

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wherein the data is high-order bits of the original data and the improvement information is a part of low-order bits of the original data; and
wherein the quality improving means combines the high-order bits of the original data, which is the data; the part of low-order bits of the original data, which is the improvement information; and the other part of lower-order bits of the original data, which is the another improvement information, to output high-quality data having higher quality than the data.

5. (Original) An information processing apparatus according to Claim 4, further comprising determination means for determining whether the quality improving means can apply quality improvement processing to the data according to the improvement information and at least one piece of the another improvement information obtained according to a request made by the improvement-information requesting means,

wherein the quality improving means improves the quality of the data according to a result of determination made by the determination means and outputs high-quality data.

6. (Currently Amended) An information processing apparatus according to Claim 2, comprising:
reading means for reading data and improvement information used for improving the quality of the data from a recording medium which stores the data and the improvement information;

improvement-information requesting means for requesting another improvement information used for improving the quality of the data read by the reading means; and

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quality improving means for improving the quality of the data according to at least both the improvement information and the another improvement information obtained according to a request made by the improvement-information requesting means and for outputting high-quality data,

wherein the data is degraded data obtained by degrading the original data,
wherein the quality improving means can restore the original data from the degraded data according to at least both the improvement information and the another improvement information,

wherein the data is first sub-sampled data obtained by sub-sampling the original data at a first phase and the improvement information is second sub-sampled data obtained by sub-sampling the original data at a second phase; and

wherein the quality improving means combines the first sub-sampled data, which is the data; the second sub-sampled data, which is the improvement information; and third sub-sampled data obtained by sub-sampling the original data at a third phase, which is the another improvement information, to output high-quality data having higher quality than the data.

7. (Original) An information processing apparatus according to Claim 6, wherein the data is first sub-sampled data obtained by sub-sampling the original data at a first phase and the improvement information is second sub-sampled data obtained by sub-sampling the original data at a second phase; and

the quality improving means comprises:

extracting means for extracting at least first sub-sampled data, second sub-sampled data, and third sub-sampled data around the target data in the high-quality data;

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class-classification means for performing class-classification according to data extracted by the extracting means and for outputting a class; and prediction means for predicting the target data from the extracted data according to the class output from the class-classification means.

8. (Original) An information processing apparatus according to Claim 7, wherein the extracting means extracts first taps and second taps from at least the first sub-sampled data, the second sub-sampled data, and the third sub-sampled data around the target data in the high-quality data; the class-classification means performs class-classification according to the first taps and outputs a class; and the prediction means predicts the target data by linear first-order coupling of the second taps and learned-in-advance prediction coefficients according to the class output from the class-classification means.

9. (Currently Amended) An information processing apparatus according to Claim 2, comprising: reading means for reading data and improvement information used for improving the quality of the data from a recording medium which stores the data and the improvement information; improvement-information requesting means for requesting another improvement information used for improving the quality of the data read by the reading means; and

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quality improving means for improving the quality of the data according to at least both the improvement information and the another improvement information obtained according to a request made by the improvement-information requesting means and for outputting high-quality data.

wherein the quality improving means comprises:

extracting means for extracting degraded data around the target data in the high-quality data;

class-classification means for performing class-classification according to data extracted by the extracting means and for outputting a class; and

prediction means for predicting the target data from the extracted data according to the class output from the class-classification means,

wherein the data is degraded data obtained by degrading the original data,

wherein the quality improving means can restore the original data from the degraded data according to at least both the improvement information and the another improvement information.

10. (Original) An information processing apparatus according to Claim 9, further comprising prediction-coefficient storage means for storing prediction coefficients obtained by learning in advance between the original data and the degraded data,

wherein the prediction means predicts the target data by linear first-order coupling of the extracted data and the prediction coefficients according to the class output from the class-classification means; and

the improvement information is a part of the prediction coefficients.

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11. (Original) An information processing apparatus according to Claim 10, wherein the extracting means extracts first taps and second taps from degraded data around the target data in the high-quality data; the class-classification means performs class-classification according to the first taps and outputs a class; and the prediction means predicts the target data by linear first-order coupling of the second taps and the prediction coefficients according to the class output from the class-classification means.

12. – 15. (Canceled)

16. (Currently Amended) An information processing apparatus according to
Claim 14, comprising:
reading means for reading data and improvement information used for improving the quality of the data from a recording medium which stores the data and the improvement information;
improvement-information requesting means for requesting another improvement information used for improving the quality of the data read by the reading means;
quality improving means for improving the quality of the data according to at least both the improvement information and the another improvement information obtained according to a request made by the improvement-information requesting means and for outputting high-quality data; and

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improvement-information sending means for sending the improvement information to another information processing apparatus.

wherein the data is degraded data obtained by degrading the original data, wherein the quality improving means can restore the original data from the degraded data according to at least both the improvement information and the another improvement information.

wherein the data is high-order bits of the original data and the improvement information is a part of low-order bits of the original data; and

wherein the quality improving means combines the high-order bits of the original data, which is the data; the part of low-order bits of the original data, which is the improvement information; and the other part of lower-order bits of the original data, which is the another improvement information, to output high-quality data having higher quality than the data.

17. (Original) An information processing apparatus according to Claim 16, further comprising determination means for determining whether the quality improving means can apply quality improvement processing to the data according to the improvement information and at least one piece of the another improvement information obtained according to a request made by the improvement-information requesting means,

wherein the quality improving means improves the quality of the data according to a result of determination made by the determination means and outputs high-quality data.

18. (Currently Amended) An information processing apparatus according to Claim 14, comprising:

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reading means for reading data and improvement information used for improving the quality of the data from a recording medium which stores the data and the improvement information;

improvement-information requesting means for requesting another improvement information used for improving the quality of the data read by the reading means;

quality improving means for improving the quality of the data according to at least both the improvement information and the another improvement information obtained according to a request made by the improvement-information requesting means and for outputting high-quality data; and

improvement-information sending means for sending the improvement information to another information processing apparatus,

wherein the data is degraded data obtained by degrading the original data, wherein the quality improving means can restore the original data from the degraded data according to at least both the improvement information and the another improvement information.

wherein the data is first sub-sampled data obtained by sub-sampling the original data at a first phase and the improvement information is second sub-sampled data obtained by sub-sampling the original data at a second phase; and

wherein the quality improving means combines the first sub-sampled data, which is the data; the second sub-sampled data, which is the improvement information; and third sub-sampled data obtained by sub-sampling the original data at a third phase, which is the another improvement information, to output high-quality data having higher quality than the data.

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19. (Original) An information processing apparatus according to Claim 18, wherein the data is first sub-sampled data obtained by sub-sampling the original data at a first phase and the improvement information is second sub-sampled data obtained by sub-sampling the original data at a second phase; and

the quality improving means comprises:

extracting means for extracting at least first sub-sampled data, second sub-sampled data, and third sub-sampled data around the target data in the high-quality data;

class-classification means for performing class-classification according to data extracted by the extracting means and for outputting a class; and

prediction means for predicting the target data from the extracted data according to the class output from the class-classification means.

20. (Original) An information processing apparatus according to Claim 19, wherein the extracting means extracts first taps and second taps from at least the first sub-sampled data, the second sub-sampled data, and the third sub-sampled data around the target data in the high-quality data;

the class-classification means performs class-classification according to the first taps and outputs a class; and

the prediction means predicts the target data by linear first-order coupling of the second taps and learned-in-advance prediction coefficients according to the class output from the class-classification means.

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21. (Original) An information processing apparatus according to Claim 14,
comprising:

reading means for reading data and improvement information used for improving the quality of the data from a recording medium which stores the data and the improvement information;

improvement-information requesting means for requesting another improvement information used for improving the quality of the data read by the reading means;

quality improving means for improving the quality of the data according to at least both the improvement information and the another improvement information obtained according to a request made by the improvement-information requesting means and for outputting high-quality data; and

improvement-information sending means for sending the improvement information to another information processing apparatus,

wherein the quality improving means comprises:

extracting means for extracting degraded data around the target data in the high-quality data;

class-classification means for performing class-classification according to data extracted by the extracting means and for outputting a class; and

prediction means for predicting the target data from the extracted data according to the class output from the class-classification means,

wherein the data is degraded data obtained by degrading the original data, and

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wherein the quality improving means can restore the original data from the degraded data according to at least both the improvement information and the another improvement information,

22. (Original) An information processing apparatus according to Claim 21, further comprising prediction-coefficient storage means for storing prediction coefficients obtained by learning in advance between the original data and the degraded data,

wherein the prediction means predicts the target data by linear first-order coupling of the extracted data and the prediction coefficients according to the class output from the class-classification means; and

the improvement information is a part of the prediction coefficients.

23. (Original) An information processing apparatus according to Claim 22, wherein the extracting means extracts first taps and second taps from degraded data around the target data in the high-quality data;

the class-classification means performs class-classification according to the first taps and outputs a class; and

the prediction means predicts the target data by linear first-order coupling of the second taps and the prediction coefficients according to the class output from the class-classification means.

24. (Original) An information processing apparatus according to Claim 13, further comprising:

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reading means for reading data and improvement information used for improving the quality of the data from a recording medium which stores the data and the improvement information;

improvement-information requesting means for requesting another improvement information used for improving the quality of the data read by the reading means;

quality improving means for improving the quality of the data according to at least both the improvement information and the another improvement information obtained according to a request made by the improvement-information requesting means and for outputting high-quality data; and

improvement-information sending means for sending the improvement information to another information processing apparatus; and

improvement-information-request-signal receiving means for receiving an improvement-information request signal indicating that another information processing apparatus requests the improvement information,

wherein the improvement-information sending means sends the improvement information to the another information processing apparatus according to an improvement-information request signal received by the improvement-information-request-signal receiving means.

25. - 40. (Canceled)